

# Routes to tour in Germany

## The Rheingold Route

German roads will get you there - to the Rhine, say, where it flows deep in the valley and is at its most beautiful. Castles perched on top of what, at times, are steep cliffs are a reminder that even in the Middle Ages the Rhine was of great importance as a waterway. To this day barges chug up and down the river with their cargoes.

For those who are in more of a hurry the going is faster on the autobahn that runs alongside the river. But from Koblenz to

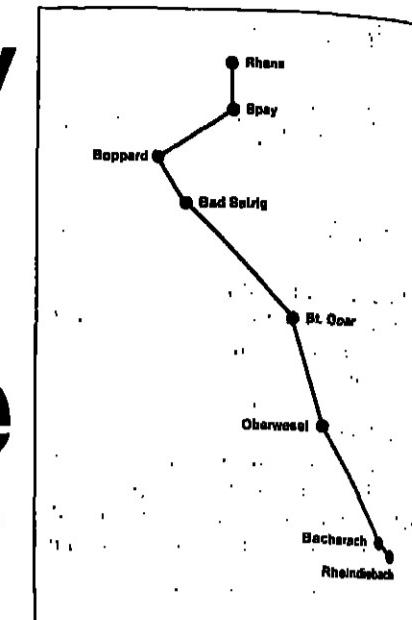
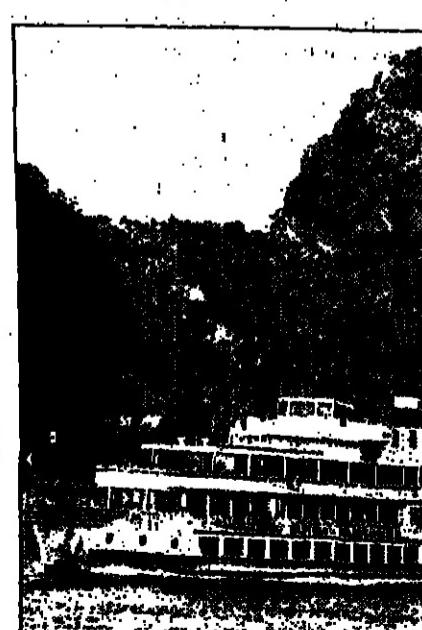
Bingen you must take the Rheingold Route along the left bank and see twice as much of the landscape. Take the chairlift in Boppard and enjoy an even better view. Stay the night at Rheinfels Castle in St Goar with its view of the Loreley Rock on the other side. And stroll round the romantic wine village of Bacharach.

Visit Germany and let the Rheingold Route be your guide.



- 1 Bacharach
- 2 Oberwesel
- 3 The Loreley Rock
- 4 Boppard
- 5 Stolzenfels Castle

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## How building the Berlin Wall signified a drawn game

*Frankfurter Allgemeine*

**B**uilding of the Berlin Wall began one fine Sunday morning 25 years ago, on 13 August 1961. But what happened can hardly be said to have come like a bolt from the blue.

Storm clouds had been gathering all summer as East German border guards and "works defence units" ran barbed wire right through the heart of Berlin. The Four-Power status of the old German capital had been dealt a body blow.

Then the Wall was built, bringing an end to the mass exodus from East Germany triggered by the collectivisation of agriculture, the nationalisation of the economy, the enforced uniformity of what people thought and the system of control of their everyday lives.

The Berlin Wall, officially known in East Germany as the "anti-fascist protective wall," closed the escape route to the West that had survived in the form of the half-open border with the western sectors of the divided city.

The second major Berlin crisis (the first was the 1948/49 blockade and airlift) began in November 1958 when Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev served the West an ultimatum.

Within six months, he said, West Berlin had to become an "independent political entity" and the Western Allies had to withdraw from the city. Otherwise the Soviet Union would hand over its rights to the German Democratic Republic.

Any attack on the frontier of East Germany was an attack on the Warsaw Pact. "All Berlin," East German leader Walter Ulbricht explained, "was on German Democratic Republic territory."

The hydrogen bomb, the sputnik and intercontinental ballistic missiles had tempted the Soviet leaders to cash in their military might in the form of greater power.

Mr Khrushchev said socialism had gained the upper hand in the international arena. But this new feeling of strength was accompanied by fears for an empire that had survived the 1953 popular uprising in East Germany and the 1956 Hungarian uprising and Polish unrest by means of the deployment of Soviet tanks.

Besides, time seemed to be running out fast for the East German leaders as they steadily transformed East Germany into a Soviet-style republic.

What did the Russians want? Not just recognition of East Germany and, after a period of grace, the take-over of West Berlin, but an even more far-reaching strategy.

The aim was to pull the legal ground from under the Allies' feet in Berlin, destroy confidence in Germany and eliminate the European post-war system.

At the Vienna summit in June 1961 Mr Khrushchev brought pressure to bear on President Kennedy, who said he felt there was going to be a cold winter.

The Soviet leader threatened Western Europe with nuclear weapons and demonstrated in East Germany both military power and the will to exercise it.

Nato forces were in the minority in Western Europe; nuclear weapons were the ultimate ratio. So the United States reacted by sending in reinforcements, by increasing its military budget and by preparing to stage a fresh airlift.

The Americans showed both determination and readiness to negotiate. What happened in Berlin, bitter though it may have been for the Germans, was a drawn game in terms of world affairs.

The Wall was built but the West retained its "three essentials": the Allied

The Berlin Wall was built 25 years ago, in 1961.  
See page 6.

role as protecting powers in Berlin; unrestricted access to the city; and continued viability of their half of the city.

Ought the Western Allies to have sent in troops against the East German border guards, who were initially not issued with live ammunition? To say they ought to forget how explosive the situation was.

The barricades would merely have been built a few yards further back. The Soviet Union went to the brink and the United States took its measure, eyeball to eyeball. But both were reluctant to take the plunge.

The drama that began in Berlin did not come to a head and reach a conclusion until over a year later during the Cuban missile crisis.

For the Soviet Union building the Wall was an expression of both external strength and internal weakness.

To this day the monstrous edifice testifies to the East German Communists' failure to prove their bona fides and to the popular desire to lead a different life.



Dead but not forgotten. Young West Berliners remember victims of the Wall's bloody history.

(Photo: AP)

## A balancing act for 25 years in divided city

**R**elations between the two German states are difficult. Just how difficult was illustrated during events marking the 25th anniversary of the Berlin Wall.

First Chancellor Kohl, SPD leader Willy Brandt and West Berlin Mayor Eberhard Diepgen condemned what the Chancellor called "this monument to inhumanity."

They spoke in the Reichstag, a historic building barely a stone's throw from the Wall.

A few hours later and still fewer miles away, the East Germans held a martial ceremony attended by East Berlin party leader Erich Honecker.

As the 1972 Basic Treaty between the two German states wryly comments, the Federal Republic and the German Democratic Republic "will develop normal good-neighbourly relations with each other."

Were these simultaneous yet so different anniversary events in Berlin a fair reflection of intra-German relations? What impression has the current flood of speeches, articles and gestures made?

In the West they have fittingly testified to a lamentable anniversary, although anger has mostly been offset by commitments to collaboration with the East German leaders.

The martial noises made in East Berlin need not, for that matter, be seen as the end of Herr Honecker's readiness to collaborate and to negotiate with Bonn.

Were it not for the blunt way in which East Berlin dashed Bonn's hopes of coming to some arrangement on the influx of asylum applicants via East Germany the atmosphere of intra-German

Continued on page 5

### IN THIS ISSUE

<b>GERMANY</b>	Page 4	<b>EXHIBITIONS</b>	Page 10
Tougher visa controls likely in bid to halt flood of asylum seekers		High-flying baron gets both carnations and a tilt-for-tat deal with Ruseians	
<b>THE ENVIRONMENT</b>	Page 6		Page 13
Tree deaths caused by soil disease, not aerial pollution, claims scientist		How lifestyle affects chances of having a heart attack or getting cancer	
<b>MEDICINE</b>	Page 8		Page 13

## WORLD AFFAIRS

## Look, no hands! Bulgarians show Bonn delegation how things have changed

### DIE ZEIT

**B**undestag Speaker Philipp Jenninger and a four-member delegation representing the four parliamentary parties in Bonn were proudly shown round an impressive dairy in the sun-drenched Dobrudja.

Fifty cows slowly rotated on a space-and-labour-saving disc as they were automatically fed and milked.

The tour of the highly modern dairy breeding complex in Tolbukhin, Bulgaria, ended at a small museum where following photographs show what life used to be like: milking by hand, primitive stables and peasants' backs bent double behind ox-drawn ploughs.

There was no mistaking the genuine pride in progress. Herr Jenninger and his delegation constantly encouraged the Bulgarians.

The success stories related by district chairmen, works managers and Party officials were partly intended to impress upon the visitors that every effort and every deutschemark invested by the Federal Republic of Germany in cooperation with Bulgaria would be money well spent.

Much the same message was implied on the guided tours of works manufacturing industrial robots and machine tools.

Formally the tour, which fell little short of a state visit in the extent of its programme and its protocol, was in return for an extended visit paid by the chairman of the Bulgarian People's Chamber, Stanko Todorov, to Bonn, Bremen, Hamburg and other places in north Germany last autumn.

East-West affairs remain the privilege of governments, but for some time parliamentarians have met to flesh out political ties. They can speak more freely than is possibly in government negotiations.

Mr Todorov, for instance, has been a member of the Bulgarian parliament since 1961 and long served as Prime Minister.

As a parliamentarian he was able to say in private, frankly and without beating about the bush, that: "Small countries want to survive."

The old issue of how detente can be sustained and maybe even promoted when the superpowers are at loggerheads is as topical as ever.

At major East-West conferences Bulgaria only occasionally has wishes of its own, such as proposals for nuclear-free and chemical weapon-free zones in the Balkans.

But even a desire such as this depends closely on the general and immediate interest in further progress toward detente.

Bulgaria needs detente. Mr Todorov told the Bonn delegation, to make further progress toward its aim of adding a firm industrial base, especially one founded on technology of the future, to rank alongside its agricultural groundwork.

Unlike neighbouring Romania, Bulgaria has avoided trying to achieve too much at once, but Sofia is anxious not to miss the opportunity of keeping abreast of the future.

It feels it can only do so by close cooperation with the West, especially with the Federal Republic of Germany. And this line of thought goes further, although its extension is not expressly stated.

Relations with Russia have been based on deep and friendly feelings ever since the Tsar freed Bulgaria from centuries of Turkish oppression, and Soviet aid since the Second World War has enhanced what are truly good-neighbourly relations.

In everyday affairs rapprochement is a topic that subdivides into a number of difficult sub-headings.

The German-Bulgarian parliamentary group led by Social Democrat Klaus Immer and Free Democrat Olaf Feldmann quietly beavers away at grassroots work.

Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher has so painstakingly kept up a wealth of carefully-tended contacts that smaller Eastern European countries have come to see him as standing for the patient and tenacious pursuit of detente.

But problems invariably arise when the discussion gets down to details. A German-Bulgarian investment promotion agreement was signed last spring and a double taxation agreement would probably have been signed already but for a number of outstanding problems over the inclusion of West Berlin.

The Bulgarians are not sufficiently unorthodox as to break ranks and rush ahead of the rest of the East Bloc. What is at stake, in the final analysis, is the role of smaller countries between the superpowers, as it were.

Herr Jenninger took up this idea from a different angle by referring, in Bulgaria, to the cultural identity of Europe and to the need to make contributions toward confidence-building in Europe.

Much the same message was implied on the guided tours of works manufacturing industrial robots and machine tools.

Carried away by his desire to put message across, he gave his interview hard time keeping up with him as he addressed the West German delegation.

Chernobyl was the keyword he chose to put across his East Bloc message to the West, and a very distinctive message it was in its undertones.

Western diplomats in the Yugoslav capital were already wondering whether Albania might not, after all, get its link with the European railway network.

At the inauguration ceremony in Titograd there was little or no trace of the preceding propaganda clash.

The Albanian representative, Faik Cina, governor of Skutari province and a member of the presidium of the Albanian parliament, stressed that the link was designed to promote both foreign trade and good-neighbourly relations between Tirana and Belgrade.

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Belgrade did not take this attack lying down. Albania was accused, in the Yugoslav Party newspaper *Kommunist*, of not only intervening in the domestic affairs of a neighbouring country but also stoking territorial claims.

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tion of the new line, saying his budget did not provide for the purchase of the two extra locomotives needed to run the service.

Bonn government officials are considering fining airlines which fly in people of certain nationalities who do not have appropriate visas. The aim is to halt the flood of asylum applicants.

This is one of several steps being looked at. Another is to toughen up visa regulations in some countries. There is no intention of bowing to demands to amend the constitutional right of political asylum.

Consideration is first being given to moves that involve the Foreign Office. In several countries of origin, German missions are to be instructed to be more careful in issuing tourist visas.

Forty per cent of Iranian and nearly 10 per cent of Ethiopian asylum applicants are said to arrive in the Federal Republic of Germany with tourist visas.

There are also plans to fine airlines that fly in citizens of "problem countries" who are not holders of the appropriate visa.

This move is not expected to achieve too much in the way of results, but it may help to ensure enforcement of the obligation on airlines to fly back at their own expense aliens who are refused entry. This obligation arises from the Aliens Act.

Yet over two thirds of the 23,000 aliens who have so far arrived in the West this year via Schönefeld airport and East Berlin were carried by Aeroflot, the Soviet airline.

The remainder flew with Interflug, the East German airline, and with three smaller Middle Eastern airlines.

Obliging Aeroflot for one to fly back aliens who are refused entry seems sure to be easier said than done.

Besides, this provision only stands the slightest chance of being enforced when an alien is immediately refused

## ■ GERMANY

# Tougher visa controls likely to close asylum floodgates

*Frankfurter Allgemeine*

entry, either because he doesn't hold a visa or because other provisions of the Aliens Act apply.

If an alien immediately applies for asylum, as is usually the case with those who arrive via East Berlin or East Germany, they can only be refused entry if their applications are "patently unwarranted," which is seldom apparent at first glance except when applicants are particularly inept.

Last year 11 per cent of applicants handled by the department responsible for processing asylum applications, a government agency in Zirndorf, Bavaria, were rejected because their applications were "patently unwarranted."

This year the proportion is unlikely to be higher, especially as the growing influx of applicants, about 50,000 already, is bound to slow down the time it takes to process applications.

Interior Ministry officials say they hope to reduce the average processing period to six months, as against the present year, but with a backlog already totalling 60,000 further delays, say a waiting list of two years, are likelier.

At present only half as many applications a month can be processed as are submitted. So further delays seem a foregone conclusion.

The only way to effectively speed up the procedure is to employ more staff at Zirndorf, where 120 officials process asylum applications (and have done so individually, not collectively, since procedural changes introduced in 1982).

It is hard to say whether the 1982 changes have accelerated matters. This year the agency has been allocated 126 extra staff, but not all will be handling asylum applications.

Next year they are to be joined in Zirndorf and at other locations by a further 80 officials. But finding suitable candidates is easier said than done. Zirndorf is not a popular location and the work is hard.

Officials face the problem of communicating with applicants from Third World countries and need to combine sensitivity toward descriptions of conditions in far-off countries and a readiness to reach decisions regardless of any sympathy they may feel.

Only senior civil service grades can be considered for demanding work of this special nature.

The next step is the administrative court case, which can result in an application being turned down as either "patently unwarranted" or unwarranted (with no further qualification).

Last year there were 74,000 applicants in the Federal Republic, as against 28,000 in France and 5,000 each in Holland and Belgium.

The Scandinavian countries are said to be in the process of making their asylum regulations more exacting. So are Switzerland and France.

Procedures are invariably administrative, with little or no right of legal recourse.

It seems reasonable to assume that the growing length of time it takes to process asylum applications in the Federal Republic is an added attraction for applicants whose motives are not political.

So there are limits to the time that might be gained by setting up courts at the border; comprehensive consideration takes time no matter where it takes place.

Yet procedures might still be accelerated to some extent. The Federal Justice Ministry is reviewing possibilities.

Consideration is also being given to limiting appeals against asylum application rulings to a single higher court. That would necessitate legislation but would be legally possible, the Constitutional Court having ruled that a single court of appeal is sufficient recourse.

But lower administrative courts would be the obvious choice to handle appeals and they might, on grounds of caution or ideological bias, tend to waive rejections, and their rulings would then be final.

Asylum procedures take so long, including court proceedings, that practical limitations are imposed on the obligation on airlines to fly rejected applicants home. Legislative amendments are here under consideration.

To stay deportation proceedings bogus applicants have increasingly taken to destroying their passports. The authorities can then no longer check whether they held valid visas nor say for sure which country of origin must take them back.

Airlines might perhaps be required to

collect passengers' passports and hand them over to the German authorities together with the manifests.

This is a procedure anyone who has ever gone on a bus tour to East Germany will be acquainted with.

It is doubtful whether Aeroflot could be persuaded to agree to this procedure, but it is surely worth the attempt, and refusal would be most revealing.

Interior Ministry officials are unhappy about figures indicating that the problem is less serious than is claimed. These figures merely list the number of asylum applicants whose applications have been granted.

They number a mere 65,000 of the over four million foreign nationals resident in the Federal Republic.

But there are about 130,000 members of their families, roughly the same number of applicants whose applications are still being processed at about 30,000 quota refugees from South-East Asia.

(An international conference is shortly to review the activities of its *Cap Anamur* and other ships that take Vietnamese boat people on board to the South China Sea.)

There are 42,000 displaced and stateless persons and about 270,000 refugees who are entitled to asylum but have been allowed to stay in Germany on humanitarian grounds.

So the total number of aliens resident in the Federal Republic whose status bears some relation to that of political asylum is over 600,000.

The Interior Ministry will hear nothing of the widespread argument that other countries handle similar numbers of asylum applicants.

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Consideration is also being given to limiting appeals against asylum application rulings to a single higher court. That would necessitate legislation but would be legally possible, the Constitutional Court having ruled that a single court of appeal is sufficient recourse.

But lower administrative courts would be the obvious choice to handle appeals and they might, on grounds of caution or ideological bias, tend to waive rejections, and their rulings would then be final.

Asylum procedures take so long, including court proceedings, that practical limitations are imposed on the obligation on airlines to fly rejected applicants home. Legislative amendments are here under consideration.

To stay deportation proceedings bogus applicants have increasingly taken to destroying their passports. The authorities can then no longer check whether they held valid visas nor say for sure which country of origin must take them back.

Airlines might perhaps be required to

collect passengers' passports and hand them over to the German authorities together with the manifests.

This is a procedure anyone who has ever gone on a bus tour to East Germany will be acquainted with.

It is doubtful whether Aeroflot could be persuaded to agree to this procedure, but it is surely worth the attempt, and refusal would be most revealing.

Interior Ministry officials are unhappy about figures indicating that the problem is less serious than is claimed. These figures merely list the number of asylum applicants whose applications have been granted.

They number a mere 65,000 of the over four million foreign nationals resident in the Federal Republic.

But there are about 130,000 members of their families, roughly the same number of applicants whose applications are still being processed at about 30,000 quota refugees from South-East Asia.

(An international conference is shortly to review the activities of its *Cap Anamur* and other ships that take Vietnamese boat people on board to the South China Sea.)

There are 42,000 displaced and stateless persons and about 270,000 refugees who are entitled to asylum but have been allowed to stay in Germany on humanitarian grounds.

So the total number of aliens resident in the Federal Republic whose status bears some relation to that of political asylum is over 600,000.

The Interior Ministry will hear nothing of the widespread argument that other countries handle similar numbers of asylum applicants.

Last year there were 74,000 applicants in the Federal Republic, as against 28,000 in France and 5,000 each in Holland and Belgium.

The Scandinavian countries are said to be in the process of making their asylum regulations more exacting. So are Switzerland and France.

Procedures are invariably administrative, with little or no right of legal recourse.

It seems reasonable to assume that the growing length of time it takes to process asylum applications in the Federal Republic is an added attraction for applicants whose motives are not political.

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## ■ THE WORKFORCE

### Unemployment is likely to stay over 2m

**Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger**

**U**nemployment is not likely to drop below two million this year. The number of people in employment is increasing, but unemployment is falling much more slowly than the Bonn government and industrial associations expected.

The government had been hoping that two pieces of legislation, one covering early retirement and the other creating incentives for employers to hire, would cut into the jobless queues.

The new laws have been in force respectively for just over two years and just over one. And both have been controversial from the start.

The trade unions have been against early retirement. They would rather see shorter working hours.

They also want the Labour Promotion Act repealed because they say that its provisions for fixed-term contracts make it easier for employers to hire and fire.

Have these laws been ineffective because of inadequate application by both unions and management? Neither is keen on the early retirement idea. Or has the government been expecting too much?

There's no clear answer. The early retirement measure was intended to have long-term effects, so a better measure of its success might be seen in the future. It is too early to judge the Labour Promotion Act.

But one thing is clear: workers are retiring earlier today than in the seventies.

They are taking advantage of the flexible retirement age ruling and drawing their retirement pensions by referring to the provisions for seriously disability and occupational invalidity as well as to the "59 Regulation", which enables workers to retire before they reach the statutory retirement age.

For two years now people born between 1926 and 1930 have been able to take advantage of the new provisions; either via a general collective bargaining agreement or an arrangement between employees and employers.

When the law was passed Bonn Labour Minister Norbert Blüm claimed that about a million workers were eligible and that 600,000 would take advantage of the offer.

The minister was over-optimistic. By May this year, only just over 53,000 had decided to retire early.

One reason is clearly that neither unions nor management are enthusiastic about the scheme.

Only just over a third of persons qualifying for early retirement are employed in industries which have early retirement provisions.

The idea is very popular in the building industry, for example, but much less popular in metal industries.

In many cases the individual incentives to retire early are inadequate.

A figure of 65 per cent of a person's previous gross income is planned as a minimum early retirement income.

If the branch or firm in which that

person works doesn't top up this figure many workers decide to continue working.

For many employers the total costs, i.e. the payment of the early retirement money and of a person to fill the resultant vacancy, are too high.

Employers only receive 35 per cent of the early retirement money from the Federal Labour Office.

Nevertheless, the latest figures do reveal a positive aspect: in many of the cases where workers have opted for early retirement unemployed persons have taken on their jobs.

The corresponding ratio is between 60 and 70 per cent, which is much higher than originally expected.

The continuing criticism of the Labour Promotion Act by the trade unions has now culminated in a call for immediate repeal.

In the opinion of the deputy chairman of the German Trade Unions Federation, Gerd Muhr, the Act has made it easier for companies to hire and fire workers with the help of fixed-term employment contracts, which can now extend to 18 months.

Muhr referred to those persons who again registered as unemployed last year after their short-term employment contracts ran out.

Viewed in isolation these figures mean nothing.

They do not indicate whether the fixed-term employment contracts were drawn up in line with previous or current legal provisions.

In addition, they do not indicate whether the shorter-term contracts then became longer-term contracts of employment.

Anyone who compares the effects of the Labour Promotion Act with the American-style "hiring-and-firing" approach is not familiar with the situation in the USA.

Things there are much tougher.

The Labour Promotion Act is limited until 1990 and the early retirement provision until 1988.

Although the laws have produced no miracle, neither have they been totally ineffective.

In times of continuously high unemployment even a slight easing of the situation cannot be dismissed as insignificant.

So the laws should not be tinkered with before they have had a chance to do their job.

Many workers still have the opportunity to retire early. It remains to be seen how many actually do.

And in the case of employment contracts with limited duration it would be better to consider whether they will be needed after 1990 rather than calling for their abolition.

Roughly 400,000 took advantage of the offer.

These special assets not only include securities but also dormant equity holdings in small and medium-sized firms which have not yet been able to get a stock exchange listing.

Workers who acquire shares in a limited liability company (GmbH) will

Continued from page 1.

It was, that any Ostpolitik or policy of Germany-Bonn might like to pursue can only last if it is firmly based on and understood by Bonn's Atlantic and European allies.

The 1971 Four-Power Agreement on Berlin imposed legal limits on the wider power struggle for the city. Besides, it paved the way for the Basic Treaty with East Germany.

The international political tug-of-war over Berlin and the test of strength in the city 25 years ago made one point clear.

If the branch or firm in which that

## Government to broaden employee investment opportunities

**Frankfurter Rundschau**

so in future receive financial support from the government.

The government is hoping to kill two birds with one stone.

Via indirect asset participation funds can be provided for small and medium-sized firms.

With the same intention the Bundestag will also be adopting a law on holding companies after the summer recess, although the companies in question must then carry on business as joint stock companies (AG).

In order to make asset formation participation in the productive capital of one's own firm a more enticing proposition to workers the government has come up with an additional tax incentive.

Anyone who receives share certificates, either free-of-charge or at a cheap rate, from the company in which he is employed has in future a tax-free wage allowance of DM500 each year.

Up to now, the wage tax allowance in accordance with income tax laws was DM300 a year.

The Act's provisions are no easy reading.

Over one hundred pages of detailed tax law stipulations and their accompanying justifications.

The most important objective is to enable employers and unions to include asset participation models in their collective bargaining agreements alongside aspects of nominal earnings and working time.

An employee who takes advantage of the DM936 law, for example, can receive a maximum of DM560 a year.

If he receives optimal financial support in this way for six years the capital he invests (DM7,324) can almost be doubled to DM14,135 assuming an interest rate of six per cent.

It is doubtful whether this will be incentive enough.

Bonn already raised the premiums for "productive saving" in its first Asset Participation Act.

The corresponding figure was increased from DM624 to DM936.

Most workers, however, prefer to accumulate assets in the form of housing, life assurance or a savings book.

The Labour Ministry feels that the fact that there are 20 collective bargaining agreements which take advantage of the asset-forming benefits of the DM936 ruling is an "initial success".

Roughly 400,000 took advantage of the offer.

Labour Minister Blüm, however, ignores the fact that many of these workers opt for the maximum amount of DM936 but prefer not to invest the money in productive capital.

The second Assets Participation Act is also unlikely to produce a nation of "worker-cum-capitalists".

Even the government shares this opinion.

The new Act is only expected to lead to approximately DM700m in lost tax revenue.

As expected the German Trade Unions Federation is sceptical.

Its priorities are clearly the guarding of real income levels and shorter working weeks.

Participation in asset formation schemes will not be a key item on the agenda of collective bargaining negotiations.

Michael Stilzner

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 13 August 1986)

Ludwig Steiner

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 7 August 1986)

## ■ FINANCE

### Another row over who is to play engine driver

**Süddeutsche Zeitung**

false premises. Three per cent more growth in West Germany would at the most increase American exports by a billion dollars.

Carter wrote in his memoirs how hurt he had been by the Teutonic tone of Chancellor Schmidt. But Schmidt had been certainly right.

In the second half of the 1970s leaders were faced with a bewildering dilemma: here further drops in international economic growth, there important West German trading partners reporting two-digit inflation rates.

West Germany did not apply economic pump priming that would not only have pitched the country to international growth but would have laid it open to importing inflation from abroad.

The question is, then, whether Schmidt's answer is still valid today. What is certain is that the West Germans cannot solve the Americans' economic problems.

According to latest estimates by the year's end the Americans will have amassed a balance of payments deficit of \$132 billion. The West Germans, on the other hand, will be able to take satisfaction from a surplus of \$31 billion and a depression at the beginning of the 1980s.

Two points emerge from this: Americans can no longer live off credit and Tokyo and Bonn, in their own interests, must shoulder their share of responsibility, for they too are concerned about increasing in international demand.

It cannot be politically wise to wallow in surpluses. Despite the rapid fall in the dollar there are still protectionist pressures in America.

Stoltenberg would be almost going against German interests if he stressed the matter is not as simple as that.

Three points are to be made:

First: we are not in an international inflationary but deflationary cycle, with stagnating prices and weakening growth rates.

No-one is going to gain anything if the dollar falls further and in addition American trade is reduced — certainly not the Germans.

Josef Joffe

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 7 August 1986)

product and in both countries prices for products have fallen (in Japan, in fact, as much as ten per cent compared with last year).

Furthermore the unemployment figure has not budged — on the contrary.

In such a situation using economic measures to revive demand in the private sector would be playing irresponsibly with inflationary fire.

Second: high balance of payments surpluses are not necessarily evidence of economic virtue. They show rather that a country has voluntarily turned away from an increase in living standards, so that there are more exports than imports.

If small countries seem to pursue their mercantilist self-interests that's their business. But if giants such as Japan and West Germany hoard their surpluses then sooner or later the serious economic imbalance created will boom.

There has been an upturn and there are signs that the driving force is beginning to come from domestic demand rather than exports.

Orders in the manufacturing industries increased 0.5 per cent in May/June compared with March/April.

Domestic orders booked increased two per cent. Export orders must have fallen by the same percentage.

The picture is much the same when a comparison is made with 1985. Orders booked in May/June are up 0.5 per cent on the 1985 May/June figure.

Domestic orders then rose by 3.5 per cent, but export orders fell by five per cent.

It would be misleading to deduce from these figures that West Germany's exports were tailing off. There are no signs of a loss of competitiveness despite the weak American dollar.

The depreciation in the dollar will eventually influence exports — the deutschmark has risen 50 per cent in value against the dollar since the spring of 1985.

This will not only affect deliveries to the USA, where German exports have increased from 6.1 per cent of the total in 1980 to 10.3 per cent last year, but competition in other markets will be more intense.

The dynamism in world trade has been reduced because of weaknesses in the East Bloc, reduced imports by the Opec countries and the indebtedness of other developing countries.

The market outlook in Europe on the other hand seems more favourable, and two-thirds of German export trade is done in Europe.

In the first five months of this year exports increased 0.4 per cent over the volume for the first five months of 1985. Over the year an increase of between two to three per cent is expected.

But in considering these figures the marked increase in exports over the past few years and the levels achieved should be taken into consideration.

Predictions that the trade balance surplus will increase from DM73 billion in 1985 to more than DM100 billion this year are based primarily on the sharp decline in import prices, not only because of exchange rates but also the price of oil.

In real terms imports increased six per cent in the January-May period this year. In base-period price terms the export surplus has dropped.

Unfortunately the German credit balance, calculated in dollars, climbed faster than in deutschmarks, and this fans the flames of international pressure on German economic management, so that the economy has to do more.

This neglects to take into consideration the fact that the domestic economy has for some time staged a recovery.

Since real incomes have increased about five per cent, it is a result of price stability, private consumption, that rose

Continued on page 8

Hans Wimmer

(Mannheimer Morgen, 12 August 1986)

Continued on page 8

Hans Wimmer

## ■ AGRICULTURE

## Biotechnology waits at the crossroads: will it save Europe's bacon?

**STUTTGARTER  
NACHRICHTEN**

Visions of putting bioalcohol into European Community motorists' tanks (and cutting the cost of farm surpluses into the bargain) had agricultural policymakers in Bonn and Brussels in raptures a few weeks ago.

They are now being brought back down to earth with a vengeance. No-one would now be foolhardy enough to suggest converting surplus foodgrain into motor fuel, both subsidised to the hilt, as the solution to Common Market farm surpluses.

That isn't to say the search for market opportunities and new uses for farm produce in industry need be to no avail. There is nothing new about non-food crops being grown on a large part of farm acreage.

A century ago, for instance, flax was grown on over 220,000 hectares of farmland in the German Reich. It was either processed to linen or pressed into linseed oil.

Ropes and insulating material were made of hemp. Animal and vegetable fats were converted into soap, lubricants, ointments and dyestuffs.

This farm produce as an industrial raw material was not replaced by synthetic products based on oil or coal until after the Second World War.

The trend has since been reversed. Natural products are back in demand, and the hectic pace of biotechnology would seem to indicate that natural products may have an even more important part to play in industry.

### Huge consumption

In principle all oil-based chemicals can be processed from farm produce. The chemical industry already uses enormous amounts of natural fats, starch and sugar.

Three million tonnes of animal and vegetable oils a year are already put to industrial use: as lubricants, in cosmetics, in patent drugs, as wood or metal paint or varnish, as dyestuffs, and as a detergent base.

Natural fats are likely to further boost their share of the market in all these instances.

The European market for industrial starch is similarly substantial. About 2.3 million tonnes of starch a year is processed to foodstuffs in the European Community, but industrial demand accounts for a further 1.7 million tonnes.

Oddly enough most of this starch is made not of wheat, in which the Common Market is swimming, but of maize. It is cornflour, and potato and wheat starch play a fairly minor role.

Yet this maize is imported, as is most of the vegetable fat used for industrial purposes.

Despite being largely self-supporting in nearly all agricultural sectors and keeping enormous farm surpluses, in silos the European Community continues to be the world's leading importer of agricultural and forest products.

It imports over 20 million tonnes of animal fodder a year, over four million tonnes of vegetable oil and 120 million cubic metres of timber.

They are joined by over 80 million tonnes of crude oil, and much, if not all,



of these imports could be substituted by European farm produce.

It could, that is, be substituted if only European farmers could be persuaded to stop growing surplus crops and start growing crops that are either scarce in Europe or likely to emerge as new markets in the years ahead.

Biotechnology, poised at the juncture of agriculture and industry, has a key role to play in developing new uses for farm produce and new markets for European farmers.

It is devising new processes of low-cost production and use of farm produce, breeding new plants better suited for industrial use or capable, once they have adjusted to European climates, of standing substitute for imported products.

The "green revolution" has transformed farming all over the world over the past two decades. Pundits now forecast another profound change they hail as the agro-industrial revolution.

By 1990 the United States will use 35 million tonnes of maize a year as a raw material for chemicals, American scientists claim.

There can be no doubt that the United States is in the best position to compete for the new markets for farm produce. It has already embarked on the agro-industrial revolution.

The European Community is in a sound position too, of course. Its powerful chemical industry is more efficient than its counterpart in either America or Japan and has shown itself to be keen on innovation in the bisector.

Yet a fundamental problem besetting the industrial use of European farm produce is that its price is higher than world market prices.

Brussels has now taken the first step to boost the competitive position of biotechnology in the European Community.

The new Common Market arrangement for sugar and starch will enable industry to buy domestic raw materials virtually at world market rates.

The virtually identical starting point is all the more important for the range

of industrial uses already having proved wide and likely to continue to expand.

European Community officials in Brussels expect industrial consumption of starch refined from wheat, potatoes, sugar-beet and maize to double by the turn of the century.

They could expand markets, improve sales prospects and diversify farm production.

Roughly half this industrial starch is used in papermaking.

The second-largest industrial customer for starch refined from European farm produce is the chemical and pharmaceutical industry.

Starch is needed as a filler to make up tablets, only 10 per cent consisting of active ingredients. Starch is needed to manufacture penicillin and enzymes by all conventional synthetic processes.

The largest increase in starch consumption is expected to result from the manufacture of environmentally sound plastics.

Making PVC and polyethylene with an admixture of natural fillers will reduce the amount of synthetic material used and present fewer environmental problems.

Polyethylene foil used to protect farm plants has at present to be removed from the field after use and burnt.

If it is manufactured as a hybrid, with an admixture of natural starch, it will be biodegradable and less expensive than PVC as a pure man-made fibre.

Reafforestation of unused farmland would be one part of the approach, the use of straw, often a harvest waste product that is burned in the fields, another.

Straw, a by-product of the wheat, barley and rye harvests, can readily be used in papermaking.

The Danes underscored their optimistic point by printing their report to the European Commission on paper consisting of 40 per cent straw and 3.3 per cent European starch.

Thomas Gack  
(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 1 August 1986)

Flax fibre products are a substitute for asbestos, which is banned as carcinogenic in many countries, so flax fibre production, currently totalling about 53,000 tonnes, could well be boosted to 300,000 tonnes.

Brussels agricultural experts feel cotton could flourish in Greece and southern Italy.

In the long term all these ideas could benefit the common agricultural market, always assuming they made sound economic sense and could be put into practice.

They could expand markets, improve sales prospects and diversify farm production.

But given stagnation in food consumption and growth in world output, European industry alone will probably not be able to rid the Community of the burden of farm surpluses.

Import substitution is sure to create foreign trade problems. So self-sufficiency alone is not the solution to the European Community's problems.

Biotechnology may well be left with nothing but the option of literally grasping at a straw, yet even that is unlikely to save Europe's bacon, to mix metaphors.

### Use for straw

A team of Danish experts has looked into how part of the timber and paper products imported from Scandinavia could be replaced by European (i.e. Common Market) products.

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(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 1 August 1986)

**Continued from page 7**  
1.7 per cent last year, can increase 4.5 per cent this.

Surveys show that capital goods investment has increased markedly. Although windfall profits from business with America are sinking, profits have improved.

The building industry has not done so well, but it is in a better position than last year.

This basic assumption is that the economic situation has improved so there are more job-seekers than there were last year. If it were not for this the unemployment statistics would look better than they do.

At all events unemployment is on the decline, but not as fast as the increase in the number of those in jobs.

Because of the weakened economic position in the first quarter of this year forecasts of economic growth for the year were corrected downwards from 3.5 per cent to 2.5 per cent.

If forecasts were not made for a calendar year but, say, from now over the next 12 months, this correction would not be necessary. The economic situation has again achieved the growth level predicted.

Hans-Jürgen Mahnke

(Die Welt, Bonn, 9 August 1986)

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### ■ THE ENVIRONMENT

## Tree deaths caused by soil disease, not aerial pollution, claims scientist



DIE WELT

shows signs of impeded growth and root blight:

Mohr says mycorrhiza can protect the tree from a wide range of harmful influences, all of which have been at one time or another blamed for the tree death epidemic.

It filters out heavy metals and acts as a buffer between the tree and acidification of the soil. It also keeps toxic concentrations of aluminium ions at bay.

It even shields the tree from the depredations of pathogenic fungi.

Yet mycorrhiza can readily be upset by environmental influences, he says, trouble not being mainly caused by natural enemies or chemical poisons.

The difficulty seems to be created by the very substances plants as a rule have a shortage of: nitrogen.

Oddly enough, there is a parallel here with the overfertilisation of waterways by chemicals.

Temporarily, Mohr says, vegetation takes kindly to an overdose of nitrogen, which is largely responsible for the "green revolution" all over the world.

But there are many signs that mycorrhiza is eventually damaged by a surfeit of organic nitrogen, especially older

trees whose root systems are less flexible in their response to external influence."

Trees are supplied with too little water and nutrient as a result, accompanied by mechanical instability and greater sensitivity to wind, frost and parasites.

Wood plants that do not naturally go in for mycorrhiza, or symbiosis with fungus, go from strength to strength.

Mohr's hypothesis would seem to account for tree deaths particularly in regions where the air is clean and areas remote from industrial and power station locations where static emission of sulphur dioxide is high.

These clean-air regions he has in mind, such as the Erzgebirge in Germany, Czechoslovakia, Poland and parts of Bavaria bordering on Czechoslovakia, suffer from tree disease partly as a result of high SO<sub>2</sub> levels, he says.

Yet in these areas there is no clear link between tree damage and the SO<sub>2</sub> count.

Besides, sulphur dioxide pollution has tended to decline in the Federal Republic since 1970, whereas tree deaths did not clearly start until 1978 and have since steadily gained momentum.

Comparative statistics show, he says, the nitrogen balance in Central Europe to be appalling.

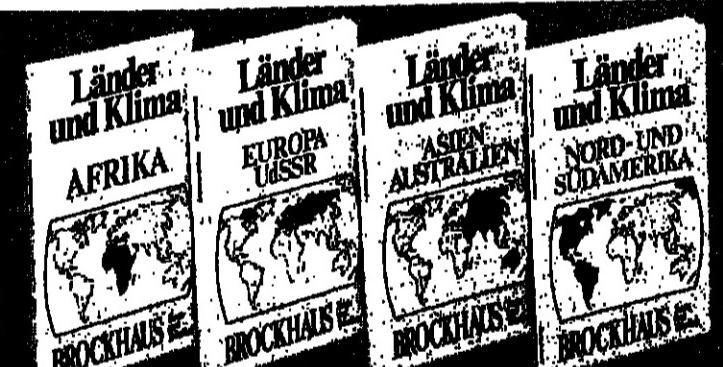
In North American and Scandinavian clean air regions nitrogen precipitation is estimated at less than one kilogram per hectare.

In Holland the figure is 60, in the Black Forest 40 kilograms per hectare per year, of which the forests are capable of handling five kilograms at most.

Dankwart Giraetz

(Die Welt, Bonn, 5 August 1986)

## Meteorological stations all over the world



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## ■ EXHIBITIONS

## High-flying baron gets both carnations and a tit-for-tat deal with Russians

Baron Hans Heinrich Thyssen-Bornemisza is one of the richest men in the world. He is a significant art collector with over 1,500 pictures. His collection is so significant that the Hermitage museum in Leningrad is putting them on exhibition. The arrangement is part of an exchange: the baron's ornate villa, Villa Favorita, on Lake Lugano is holding an exhibition of Russian art treasures on loan from the Hermitage.

The dining room and adjacent salons of the magnificent 18th-century Villa Favorita on Lake Lugano, owned by Baron Hans Heinrich Thyssen-Bornemisza, have been cleared to make way for a display of gold, silver and jewels.

The collection, which once belonged to the tsars and other aristocrats, is now in the Hermitage in Leningrad.

The Baron pointed out one item, an altar piece, which he said, had been found blackened and dirty, forgotten in a dark corner of a storeroom in the Hermitage. The Hermitage was originally an annex to the Winter Palace.

The cleaned-up altar piece (tabernacle) shows Christ floating in gold and silver and gazing towards a blue heaven.

The one-metre tall baroque altar piece is a masterpiece made in Augsburg. It is one of the 150 gold and silver treasures from the Hermitage on display in the villa.

Baron Thyssen has just returned from the opening in Leningrad of an exhibition of equivalent treasures from his own collection.

In his calm, Austrian accent he said: "After the Geneva summit conference the Americans asked for a similar exhibition. So we postponed that exhibition exchange until next year. Next time the pictures will be a degree better than in 1983."

We were sitting in the salon of his ochre-coloured villa surrounded by paintings by Emil Nolde, Max Beckmann and Gustav Courbet. They competed with the view of the emerald-green mountains and the blue of Lake Lugano.

After lunch on the terrace he poured himself a small whisky with plenty of water. On that beautiful summer day, wearing a white made-to-measure shirt with the initials H.T.B., he told of his winter expedition.

In January he flew from St Moritz to Moscow in his own private jet. Since air traffic over the Soviet Union is controlled via Russia, a Soviet pilot was sent to St Moritz to fly his plane.

He was greeted officially and presented with official carnations.

Thyssen-Bornemisza is a German-Hungarian millionaire with a Swiss passport. His main home is in Britain. He is very popular in Russia.

The British art expert Anna Somres-Cocks, who accompanied the Baron along with his curator Simon de Pury, said: "The Russians hate dealing with unknown institutions. But the Baron is a man with influence and he knows his way about. Furthermore, he can drink vodka like a real man."

After the British Queen he is the second largest private art collector in the world. The Russians knew about him before he reached Moscow.

One evening at a dinner in Cologne, the Russian ambassador at the time, Vladimir Simeonev, asked him: "Why

do you put on such wonderful exhibitions in America and not in Russia as well?"

In 1983 he gave his reply by putting on an exhibition of 40 of his Old Masters that toured Leningrad, Moscow and Kiev, attracting a million visitors.

But the generous Baron was not left empty-handed. The Russians replied with a picture for picture exhibition of Impressionists.

Instead of the usual 25,000 art fans who call at the Baron's villa between Easter and October, 250,000 made their way to see the Impressionist paintings from Russia in Villa Favorita, a paradise hemmed in by cypress trees.

His inheritance from steel and the international organisation he has built up himself have made Thyssen one of the richest men in the world...

The business is now mainly in the hands of his eldest son Georg Heinrich. He concentrates most of his energies in a dark corner of a storeroom in the American Mid-West.

He buys with gusto. Currently he owns about 1,500 pictures. Because he is short of wall space, but also because he enjoys making a fine gesture, he hangs his pictures out all over the world.

His East-West flirtation was continued last year with an exchange of pictures with Hungary. A further exhibition was planned for 1986, an exchange of Impressionist paintings from Russia for some of his Old Masters.

In his calm, Austrian accent he said: "After the Geneva summit conference the Americans asked for a similar exhibition. So we postponed that exhibition exchange until next year. Next time the pictures will be a degree better than in 1983."

The Baron said: "I find these Russian expeditions fascinating." He stood up and re-filled his glass.

It is a marvellous opportunity to get to know a society that is quite different. It is very much to do with people. I have met some very cultivated people there, who are proud of their traditions," he said.

His curiosity and his highly developed sense of humour induces him to

poke a little gentle fun at the traps in the Russian system.

He has difficulty finding an official with whom he can negotiate. The present contract, for instance, was concluded with the former Minister for Cultural Affairs, Piotr Demichev, but he has now been promoted to vice-president of the Soviet Union.

"Last week there was no mention of his successor. That makes you just a little nervous," he said laughing.

The Russians proposed that Novosibirsk should be included along with Moscow and Leningrad in the itinerary for the Thyssen exhibition next year. But because the Baron wanted to fly there in his private jet the Russians suddenly discovered that there was no museum in Novosibirsk.

He was able to match a tobacco jar belonging to Frederick the Great, that

But he calmly predicted that he would go there.

The Baron has only had a few friendly exchanges with Russian leader Mikhail Gorbachev. Baron Thyssen sent him a catalogue of his jewels that are currently on show in the Hermitage. Gorbachev sent his thanks via two ambassadors.

In a subtle way the Baron took part in the Geneva summit conference. At President Reagan's request he loaned a picture of the American coastline to go over the fireplace in the salon in Geneva. "But only for three hours, I said, otherwise the picture will suffer. I was precise about that. I got Reagan and Gorbachev to stand under this picture," Thyssen said.

Of the people who turned up for the opening of his current exhibition in Leningrad he commented that it was just like a gathering of people in the American Mid-West.

Thyssen paid for the catalogue and the exhibition insurance himself. When the Russians sent a bill for \$270,000 for insurance for their exhibits he telephoned back: "In 1983 the insurance was \$10,000."

Back came the reply: "\$70,000 is acceptable."

Thyssen commented the in this way, a friendly agreement could be arrived at in art dealings today.

Thyssen would very much like to mount an exhibition of Russian avant-garde painting of around 1900 for the Russian public.

He said: "This art is frowned upon by Russia and pushed aside. I had a verbal agreement from Andropov, but under Gorbachev it has been postponed. We need to have the reins of government firmly in his hands before he does anything."

We went from the terrace to the Museum, which is also ochre-coloured. On Mondays it is closed to the public. Thyssen displays here permanently 300 items from 33 museums range from the pre-Aztec period from about the second millennium BC to the flowering of Mexican civilisation in the 10th century AD.

German visitors will be particularly interested in the spectacular Templo Mayor finds.

The Great Temple, dedicated to the twofold deity Tlaloc the rain-god and Huizilopochtli the god of war, was in the heart of the Aztec city of Tenochtitlan, now Mexico City, which contemporaries of Cortez compared with Constantinople and Rome.

He is not only concerned with East-West art relations. His fifth wife is Spanish and he has been able to attract Goya pictures in private collections to join the Goya paintings from the Hermitage.

He said that he had a lot of trouble assembling this exhibition and that a few psychological plays had to be used.

Collectors such as the Duchess of Alba, a friend, refugee, collector Goya pictures. The family exercised its veto.

But in the end he was able to get 150 Goya pictures for display in the Villa Favorita, a quarter of the Spanish artist's works that are in private hands.

The exhibition includes artistic Russian enamel pendants and large splendid plates from Augsburg. There is an English silver cup made from three horses' heads joined together and a French silver bowl with a wave round its rim, pure *Jugendstil* dating from 1913.

An expensive clasp gleams hidden in a crystal vase shaped like a flowering branch. A minute clock is enclosed by a tulip flower.

Baron Thyssen looked at a particularly Russian work of art, an artistically worked steel object from Tula, with particular warmth. He said: "I would like to have a piece like that myself."

But he thinks that his collection of costly renaissance jewellery in silver and pieces of Fabergé is equal to the wonders the tsars collected.

Hans Heinrich Thyssen-Bornemisza left me alone with the King. His jet was ready. It was scheduled to fly to Spain.



Baron Thyssen-Bornemisza... for vodka.

## ■ ANTHROPOLOGY

## Through the jaguar's mouth and onwards to Huitzilopochtli

## DIE ZEIT

on a pattern that seems to run through the coarse stone in soft waves gives expression to both the soft interior and the hard shell.

Traces of blue paint indicate that the snail was dedicated to the rain god Tlaloc, one of the oldest and most important Aztec deities, whose favour was essential for a good harvest.

The snail was probably a fertility symbol. Snailshell horns were sounded in ritual ceremonies.

Stone models of ball game equipment can also be admired in Hildesheim. It was a game of life or death that fired the conquistadores' flights of bloodthirsty fancy and prompted them to launch punitive expeditions against the barbarous Aztecs.

The game was played with a heavy rubber ball that could only be touched with the torso, so players wore thick cotton or leather padding.

Many details of dating and the use to which objects were put have yet to be settled, but the stone yokes and palmas are felt to have been laid in the graves of ball game players who were sacrificed.

Exhibits normally on show in museums in different countries and continents can here be seen face to face and reinterpreted.

Items from 33 museums range from the pre-Aztec period from about the second millennium BC to the flowering of Mexican civilisation in the 10th century AD.

German visitors will be particularly interested in the spectacular Templo Mayor finds.

The Great Temple, dedicated to the twofold deity Tlaloc the rain-god and Huizilopochtli the god of war, was in the heart of the Aztec city of Tenochtitlan, now Mexico City, which contemporaries of Cortez compared with Constantinople and Rome.

In 1976 electricity board workers discovered by chance a gigantic block of stone that was identified as part of the temple, which the Spaniards had destroyed.

Storerooms full of statues of the gods and cult equipment (preciously adorned sacrificial knives, jewellery, masks and ceramics) were unearthed.

One of the finest Templo Mayor finds is a stone model of a gigantic snail. Its shell is nearly one metre long and lined



Container with mask of the Aztec rain god Tlaloc. Painted ceramic. 17th century AD.

(Photos: Catalogue)

festivities of the Aztecs, illustrated by a handful of old exhibits, such as a wooden mosaic-lined statue of Tlaloc, rain god and lord of the third kingdom of the dead.

There is an unbroken tradition of death rituals. Earthenware dogs painted yellow used to be customary grave ornaments. Today yellow targets help the dead to find their way home to the family once a year.

Nothing the dear departed might need was to be missing. Model altars and death chambers have been made up in Bremen to convey an idea of what they must have been like, with the favourite food of the dead, gifts and a host of yellow flowers.

It comes as a surprise to find that confectioners' displays can feature skulls made of icing sugar or gaily-painted papier-mâché skeletons.

There are even competitions held to see who has designed the most imaginative skeleton.

Ofrendas, or funeral rites, have assumed a political aspect to go with the folklore since last year's earthquake.

The dead point an accusing finger at the negligence of the authorities.

A "protest" altar is also on show in Bremen, decorated with very little to eat and clearly symbolising disaster.

The dead have resumed their role of acting on behalf of the living, much as the Aztecs of old celebrated death as the prerequisite for fresh life. *Cornelia Plauter*

(Die Zeit, Hamburg, 1 August 1986)

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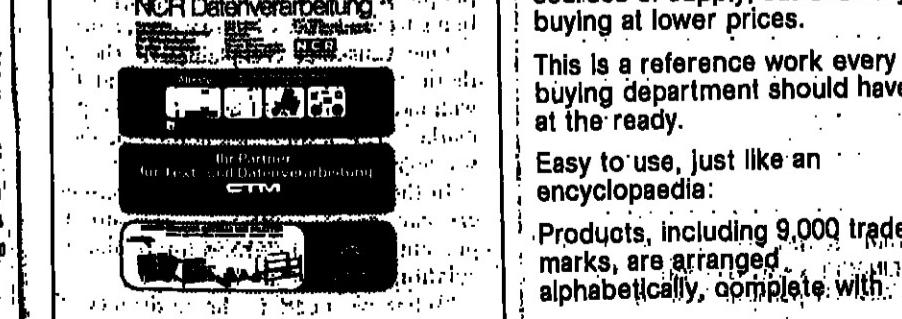
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## ■ HEALTH

## Food and drink regulations need to be tightened up, warns researcher

**Stiddeutsche Zeitung**

**G**erman food and drink regulations need to be tightened up, says Berlin foodstuffs expert Hermann Hummel-Liljegren.

Professor Hummel-Liljegren wants 10 new research units to check radiation in food and drink so a nation-wide radiation chart can be compiled.

He also refers to a possible conflict of interest where some factory inspectors are used as consultants by those factories they are meant to inspect.

There has been a succession of adulteration scandals over the past couple of years, and the public suspects that Germany's allegedly strict regulations are not enforced as strictly as they should be.

Consumers find it hard to believe that inspectors checked adulterated wines thoroughly for glycol and methanol. They doubt whether milk and vegetables are adequately checked for radioactivity.

The major scandals have triggered waves of outrage; lesser scandals have become commonplace.

Nowadays no-one is up in arms on learning that over 50 per cent of deep-frozen chickens are full of salmonella bacteria, a common cause of food poisoning, or that allergens are permitted foodstuff additives.

The legal penalties for adulteration don't seem to upset professional adulterators. Does the combination of the law, enforcement agencies and the courts still give enough protection from poison and declining food quality?

"If HPLC analysis had been intensively used, diethylene glycol additive would with some certainty have been identified much earlier," write Gunes Barka and Volker Heldiger in the foodstuffs chemistry supplement of the specialist journal *CIT*.

Other chemists agree that extract analysis, which a prescribed wine testing technique, ought to have brought glycol to light earlier — if only a courageous research chemist had taken the trouble to do more than his daily routine.

But state inspection laboratories are already so overworked they can barely cope with routine work. Twenty years ago wine had to undergo eight tests; the number is now about 20.

The number of toxins and impurities chemists might keep their eyes open for increases by the year.

There are 1,500 pesticides on sale in the Federal Republic, traces of which might be found in certain foodstuffs.

Veterinary drugs, heavy metals and dyestuffs are further hazards. Besides, at the glycol wine scandal showed, adulterators are growing increasingly refined.

"We must think in terms of the future," says Professor Erich Coduro, head of the *Land* health laboratories in Munich. "There must be no question of us being paralysed by routine."

There are no analysis techniques yet known for many substances — techniques suitable for routine use, that is.

Unless they have the widest possible selection of analysis techniques laboratories are sure to prove no match for growing environmental pollution and sophisticated adulterators.

When *Land* laboratories were inundated with samples of adulterated wine and radioactive vegetables they no longer had enough time to keep up routine checks.

In Bavaria the authorities have already reacted to this workload. After the glycol scandal two new chemists were hired for the Munich department, while after Chernobyl fresh staff were taken on for radioactive analysis.

Must the laboratories await further scandals before being fitted out with more staff and equipment that could arguably nip future scandals in the bud?

Professor Hummel-Liljegren called, in the wake of Chernobyl, for the establishment of 10 new radiation research institutes as units of the food and drink inspection service.

His aim was not just to ensure a better starting-point in the event of a further fallout catastrophe; he also wanted to compile radiation charts for the entire country.

"If consumers know exactly what the radiation level is in a given area," the Berlin consumer protection expert says, "and if the source of foodstuffs is specified exactly on the package, then pregnant and nursing mothers can switch to less problematic sources".

But new toxin analysis techniques and superbly equipped laboratories are not enough if the law fails to lay down binding danger levels for certain substances that cause contamination.

For PCB, or polychlorinated biphenyl, a harmful substance used as a coolant in transformers or as a softening agent in plastics and paints, there are only recommended levels.

The same is true of heavy metals, and courts are not prepared to accept recommended levels entirely at face value.

Yet Bonn is still sitting pretty on proposed regulations governing agents deemed to cause contamination.

Watchdogs such as the North Rhine-Westphalian Consumer Association say there must also be an end to diluting highly toxic foodstuffs by mixing them with less toxic ones.

Professor Hummel-Liljegren is doubtful whether the new regulations will comply with this demand, and if dilution isn't banned there will, he says, be no pressure to reduce the level of contamination in areas where it is high.

A glance at the foodstuff additives list

issued by the Hamburg Consumer Association is enough to see that German food and drink regulations permit the use of additives that are a potential health hazard.

Food and drink labels list additives by code numbers beginning with an E.

The Hamburg booklet lists what the numbers, such as E 102, stand for and state how dangerous the substance may be.

E 102 is a yellow dyestuff, tartrazine. Sensitive people have been known to be allergic to it, up to and including blisters and asthmatic bouts.

This information from the Rowohlt book "What We All Swallow" does not stop manufacturers of custard powder, sweets and lemonade from using tartrazine liberally. It is inexpensive and turns substances a bright and cheerful yellow.

It is one of the most widespread food and drink dyestuffs used in the Federal Republic of Germany. In Norway and Sweden it has been banned.

Since 21 December 1984 German patent medicines containing E 102 have been required to carry a warning on the package.

"This medicine," it reads, "contains the dyestuff tartrazine, which can cause allergic responses among people who are particularly sensitive to it."

Swiss nutritionist Professor Somogyi is caustically critical of the use of tartrazine. There is, he says, no reason why the slightest risk should be run. Tartrazine could readily be replaced by a sound natural substance, beta-carotin.

Foodstuffs regulations are extremely complex and not dealt with in detail at university. Busy court officials are unlikely to find time off from their daily routine to find out more on the subject.

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simply states that anyone who mixes bad wine with good will forfeit his life.

Such draconian punishment is no longer in fashion, of course. Professor Hummel-Liljegren says the 1974 legislation made life easier for offenders by "decriminalising" adulteration.

Many previously criminal offences have since been scaled down to the level of a parking ticket. Pay your fine and that's that.

A mere fine isn't going to deter offenders. A wine dealer found guilty of selling three containers of Italian wine as Moselle wine was fined a derisory DM600, for instance.

A Düsseldorf court fined a sausage manufacturer DM220 for selling sausages with a water content of 12.3 per cent who only five per cent was permitted.

Critics say fines imposed on restaurant owners are often so negligible that things cleaning woman costs more.

In 1982, after the scandal over oestrogen in veal, a commission set up by the DFG scientific research association to look into traces of alien substances in foodstuffs complained that penalties were too lax.

In findings circulated to Federal and Land Ministries the commission said existing fines and other provisions must be used to the full.

The North Rhine-Westphalian Consumer Association goes even further, calling for more stringent regulation governing breaches of foodstuffs legislation.

Nutrition consultant Maren Krüger said at a specialist conference: "That's the only way criminal acts and malpractice can be prevented."

Critics uniformly attribute derision to the lack of competence of the courts that handle cases. Judges and public prosecutors at minor courts are often way out of their depth.

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## ■ MEDICINE

## How lifestyle affects chances of having a heart attack or getting cancer

**SONNTAGSBLATT**

**How you live has a direct bearing on your chance of suffering from a heart attack, a stroke or cancer, says Heidelberg psychiatrist Ronald Grossarth-Maticek.**

**Statistically speaking, self-reliant people who are not prone to neuroses are generally less likely to suffer from such killer complaints.**

**People who are heavily dependent on a partner, a job, a hobby or an idea are two to five times more likely to suffer from a serious complaint of this kind.**

**This psychological aspect is said to have an even greater effect on how illnesses develop than classic risks such as smoking, lack of exercise and unhealthy diets.**

**Grossarth-Maticek, addressing a medical congress in Berlin, based his conclusions on a Heidelberg survey of 1,026 elderly people questioned about how they lived and any illnesses they may have had.**

**They were interviewed twice, at an interval of 10 years, and found to roughly come in four categories:**

**Type 1 is heavily dependent on and closely associates his or her well-being with a person or an objective.**

**Cancer, heart attacks and strokes virtually never occur to people in this category, statistics show.**

**The same set of questions produced remarkably identical answers in a village in Yugoslavia. Grossarth-Maticek, now at London University, infers from**

**Chronic depression and overactivity is how they react to the loss of the beloved person or "object." Type 1 correlates with cancer of the stomach.**

**Type 2 also bears the hallmark of dependence, but one felt to be entirely negative.**

**The person or object is to blame for a permanent feeling of dissatisfaction or annoyance, yet Type 2 is unable to break with his or her bugbear.**

**This type is correlated with heart attacks, strokes and diabetes.**

**Type 3 vacillates between these two extremes, being both attracted to and repelled by his partner or the object of his interest.**

**Being unable to incorporate this ambivalence in his everyday life, he tends to be emotionally adrift and vacillating in his feelings.**

**Type 3 is clearly less prone to serious physical illness but suffers from strikingly chronic fear and aggression toward both himself and others.**

**Type 4 is described as fairly self-reliant and self-assured, with a balanced relationship with his or her partner, job and friends.**

**Consumers can also influence food quality by their buying habits. If a manufacturer finds sales of food containing harmful dyestuffs tail off he will either have to stop using them or risk losing his share of the market.**

**But there is no way in which a consumer boycott can spike the guns of professional adulterators like the glycol wine-adulterators as long as they go unnoticed.**

**"Food inspection can't prevent scandals," Professor Coduro says. "It will remain a wide-meshed net rather than a sheet."**

*Christine Broll*

(*Stiddeutsche Zeitung*, Munich, 2 August 1986)

## Biosensors will ease diabetic blood testing

**D**aily blood sugar tests as carried out by hundreds of thousands of diabetics in the Federal Republic of Germany will soon be a thing of the past, with biosensors replacing blood tests.

**Biosensors, devised by Erlangen University department of physiology and cardiology, can measure the blood sugar and tissue oxygen count bloodlessly.**

**The new device is based on electrode readings of the weak biosignals emitted by capillaries and tissue cells, says Manfred Kessler, who is in charge of the interdisciplinary project.**

**The sensors are between a few millimetres and one centimetre long and consist mainly of a gold platelet and a membrane set in plastic and linked by cable to a computer.**

**As soon as a sensor comes into contact with a minute quantity of blood, glucose passes through the membrane and triggers electrochemical reactions from which detailed inferences can be drawn as to life processes in the body cell.**

**Various forms of sensor have been designed for various uses, such as diabetes treatment, intra-operative diagnostics and intensive care medicine.**

**Specialists say little use is made of the opportunity of psychosocial therapy and discussion facilities.**

(*Allgemeine Zeitung*, Mainz, 2 August 1986)

## Sex and the ill: criticism of lack of privacy

**Nordwest Zeitung NWZ**

**Constant coming and going to and from hospital rooms has been strongly criticised at a Heidelberg training course in sexual medicine.**

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## ■ HORIZONS

## Easy riders calm frayed nerves in autobahn jams

**M**otorway tailbacks during summer holiday weekends are a nightmare to motorists. On one weekend this summer tailbacks on German autobahns totalled 100 kilometres. In situations such as these the tailback counsellor of the ADAC, Germany's Munich-based motoring association, comes into her own, calming nerves and reassuring motorists caught up in motorway delays.

**U**lrike Johannsen would have a difficult miming her weekend job if she were to appear as a guest on Robert Lembke's "What's My Line" quiz on German TV.

She helps relieve pent-up anger when motorists are brought to a stop by tailbacks on a motorway, or in diversions through villages on the Lüneburg Heath.

She tries to quieten fretful children with fruit juice drinks and sweets, amusing them with games and balloons.

She particularly tries to be pleasant so that motorists do not get too worked up at the delays. How do you mime that?

Ulrike, 24, who works with the hundicapped during the week, comes from Lüneburg. She is one of the ADAC's crew of 90 who patrol the country's 7,930 kilometres of autobahn on motorways at holiday weekends.

They are not ADAC patrolmen; they are motorway tailback counsellors working in Bavaria, Baden-Württemberg and the Rhineland.

Since 13 June they have been joined by motorcycle tailback counsellors in Lower Saxony, of which the Lüneburg area forms part.

Ulrike rides a 1,000cc, 90hp BMW which can reach 200kph, or 125mph. On this powerful machine she can weave her way through tailbacks with ease.

As regularly as clockwork there is a tailback on the A7 autobahn from Hamburg to Hanover close to the Allerl service station in peak holiday periods.

An engineer from Düsseldorf asked: "Tailback, Why?" He can read the word "Tailback" displayed on her motorcycle. Although they have considerable experience they invariably come across new situations that need a new approach.

Ulrike, 24, who works with the hundicapped during the week, comes from Lüneburg. She is one of the ADAC's crew of 90 who patrol the country's 7,930 kilometres of autobahn on motorways at holiday weekends.

Ulrike hands the headphones to the businessman in his car. The mobile telephone is preset to dial the airport automatically — along with other important numbers such as the hospital, police and other services.

The businessman was able to change his flight booking and paid for the service just a little more than he would have paid for a call from a public telephone.

There is another aspect to the motorway tailback counsellor idea in Lower Saxony. Ulrike Johannsen has a pilot passenger Joachim Hoffmann of the German Red Cross, who has artificial respiration equipment in his motorcycle side-pack for first aid to the injured.

On one busy summer weekend he gave first aid to a car passenger injured in a crash in roadworks near Allerl until the ambulance arrived, and a little later pulled a badly-injured woman out of an overturned car near Soltau.

Ulrike Johannsen calmed down a distraught woman who would not allow anyone to give her first aid.

There is another motorcycle fitted out like Ulrike's that runs on holiday weekends. The rider patrols the southern sector of the motorway between Hildesheim and the Hesse state border.

Martin Mühlbauer, 37, an official from ADAC headquarters in Munich and the man in charge of training motorway tailback counsellors, feels it would be useful if Lower Saxony's example were followed by other federal states.

He was the first motorway tailback counsellor operating between Munich and Salzburg and had his leg pulled as being Punch in Punch and Judy.

Since then he has trained 83 men and 7 women to motorway tailback counsellors.

The tailback counsellors are all volunteers and get between DM10 and DM15 an hour as pocket money for their services. Each weekend they drive about 250 kilometres along motorways.

Although they have considerable experience they invariably come across new situations that need a new approach.

Continued on page 18



Just the girl for this jam... autobahn rider Johannsen. (Photo: Ewald Reventz)

## Claudia and Annette want to see army life close up... now, read on

**C**laudia Mai and Annette Dann, both 19, both members of the Junge Union, the young conservatives, wanted to get to know more about the army, so they joined up.

Annette Dann said: "We wanted to be able to talk about the army, but so often we had to say that we had nothing to do with it."

They now have a chance to get an insight into the military and get some idea of what it is like being a conscript. They are with 161 recruits in 821 Signals Company stationed in Düsseldorf.

Young soldiers camping out get up in the morning and strip to the waist to wash.

With the girls, both from nearby Ratingen and studying for the Abitur, the university entrance exam, stripping would be a problem, so they are trucked back to barracks to take a shower in the morning and the evening.

Lieutenant-Colonel Klaus Tappe, 45, battalion commander, said: "Of course, some limits have had to be imposed."

But apart from the showers the girls have been soldiering just like the young men since the beginning of July.

They are doing basic training, including a week in the bivouac in the military training area.

Claudia and Annette wanted to know what the Bundeswehr, the army, was like right close up. They are dressed in olive-green, just like the young recruits, and have done field training.

They think it is not fair that girls should be able to get out of doing 15 months in the armed forces.

Claudia Mai, who is studying to be a chemicals laboratory assistant, can see no reason why she should not take up "soldiering" as a career. She said that physically women were quite capable of serving in the forces.

Lieutenant-Colonel Tappe said: "I have two views on the subject. On the one hand women should be able to serve voluntarily in the Bundeswehr. Without arms, of course."

"Then there are any number of problems in the situation, as we know from other armies that recruit women."

Every year about 4,000 women apply to the Defence Ministry wanting to serve in the Bundeswehr.

Annette Dann was able to cope with aches and pains, that training is a piece of cake.

She had blisters on her feet, but nevertheless said: "Of course I intend to do the 20-kilometre orientation march — the blisters will go away."

A note left behind after the murder of Siemens executive Beckurts and his

and the "steel helmets" they wear are made of plastic.

Lieutenant-Colonel Tappe made this project possible. There was a panel discussion on "Women in the Bundeswehr" when, at the height of terrorist bloodshed in 1977, they murdered not only "representatives of the system" such as chief public prosecutor Siegfried Buback and employers' leader Hans-Martin Schleyer, but also Schleyer's chauffeur and three bodyguards.

Nothing special is done for them. They wear blue uniforms but have fingernails full of dirt. They sleep in tents, just like recruits, and take part in training.

When there is an atomic, biological and chemical warfare alarm they quickly don their masks and rubber ponchos just like the men.

They have been no problems integrating them into the unit.

Annette Dann says: "At first they was a little holding back, of course. Suddenly 161 male recruits saw two girls in their midst."

Now the young men think the project was a good thing, but some criticise the fact that the girls do not carry weapons and so do not go through the really tough training that the conscripts experience.

Signalman Jörg Bruch, 19, from Düsseldorf, also doing the Abitur, says: "I can see no reason why I should not do my military service along with girls."

RAF activists of the third generation fight shy of risks and plan acts that present as little danger to themselves personally as possible.

But the RAF has lost none of its danger. There was a period when they kept a low profile and until the end of the 1970s they were isolated.

The hard core of the group seemed to have slipped off to the Middle East. But today, according to security force estimates, the commando element is almost totally back in the Federal Republic.

Since the end of 1984 and the beginning of 1985 they have increased their armed struggle against the military-industrial complex representing the US war machine allegedly aimed at suppressing people worldwide.

There have been long intervals in this battle but the struggle itself has been systematic.

It was obvious after the murder of Munich company executive Ernst Zimmermann and more recently Professor Beckurts that potential victims of this campaign were people involved in Nato in some way or another, including people in the military and from politics.

Despite radio warnings almost 80 per cent of motorists drive straight into a tailback. Later they will tell their friends: "We were caught up in that tailback. Didn't you read about it?"

Ulrike Johannsen says: "If I take off my helmet everyone is amazed that I am a woman and everyone is always very nice to me." It's fun to deal with other people's irritation.

Continued from page 14

Three members of the terrorist Red Army Faction (RAF), Eva Sybille Haule-Frimpong, Christian Kluth and Luitgard Hornstein, have been arrested in an ice cream parlour in Rüsselsheim. They were being sought on a variety of counts involving violence. A fourth suspected terrorist, Ursula Barabass, has been arrested on charges of complicity. She is said to have provided the others with shelter. Eighteen years after the first attacks on department stores the heirs of Andreas Baader and Ulrike Meinhof continue to murder and destroy property with increasing brutality.

RAF activists greeted their sympathisers with the repugnant comment "the comrades have become killers" when, at the height of terrorist bloodshed in 1977, they murdered not only "representatives of the system" such as chief public prosecutor Siegfried Buback and employers' leader Hans-Martin Schleyer, but also Schleyer's chauffeur and three bodyguards.

The shift of vague aims from radical changes in Germany to the anti-imperialist world revolution has made no difference in the RAF's attitude towards extreme violence. What is noticeable is that their use of violence has become more indiscriminate.

The RAF hard core is made up, as previously, of 20 terrorists. There is a warrant out for the arrest of every one of them.

The RAF themselves did not name him in their seven-page letter claiming responsibility for the *Stuttgarter Zeitung*.

Within RAF circles the only concern about the shooting of American serviceman Edward Pimental in Wiesbaden, whose identification papers were required for an attack on the Frankfurt airport, was whether it was a tactical error.

RAF activists of the third generation fight shy of risks and plan acts that present as little danger to themselves personally as possible.

These militants are made up mainly of old, dropout fighters from the inner circle.

There is a marked difference in the methods used by the commando group and the militants in their mutual anti-imperialist aims. While the hard core kill deliberately, the militants try to avoid endangering other people in their attacks.

Over the years the RAF's attraction has not diminished despite a new ideological approach and the major "offensive" mounted since the end of 1984.

As in the past their is the double circle of sympathisers, the close-knit group made up of about 200 firm supporters, from which the hard core of the RAF and the militants in their mutual anti-imperialist aims. While the hard core kill deliberately, the militants try to avoid endangering other people in their attacks.

One of the few clues to cooperation between foreign terrorist groups is the theft of explosives in Belgium in June 1984.

The murder of American serviceman Edward Pimental on 7 August 1985 in preparation for an attack on the American section of Frankfurt airport was a setback for the RAF.

This was heatedly discussed at a meeting of the commando group at the beginning of this year in Frankfurt attended by 1,000.

Sympathisers said in criticism that the shooting of the GI was a betrayal of the revolution. The reasons given for this were not sympathy for the victim, but that the RAF had disregarded "revolutionary ideology" with purely military posturing.

The terrorists expressed partial regret and took a new approach to the ideological foundations of their actions.

This was produced on a 20-page typed statement in a magazine entitled "Fighting shoulder to shoulder — a newspaper for the anti-imperialist front in Western Europe," issue number 5 of January 1986.

This said: "We state here clearly that the shooting of the GI is that particular situation was a mistake. It blocked the effect of the attack on the air base as well as the political-military requirements of the action and the offensive overall."

Ulrike Johannsen says: "If I take off my helmet everyone is amazed that I am a woman and everyone is always very nice to me." It's fun to deal with other people's irritation.

Continued from page 14

Ursula Barabass, Christian Kluth, Luitgard Hornstein, Eva Sybille Haule-Frimpong (Photos: IPA)

## TERRORISM

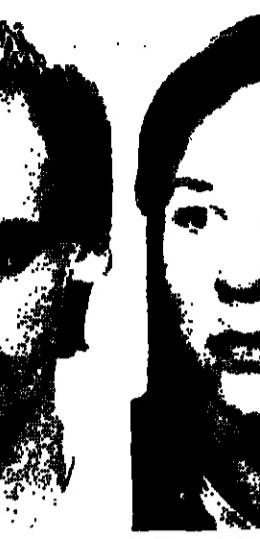
### Aim remains the same: only the tactics are new



Ursula Barabass



Christian Kluth



Luitgard Hornstein



Eva Sybille Haule-Frimpong

(Photos: IPA)

calation that in itself had significance, because the attacks in Wiesbaden and Frankfurt were against soldiers who "martyred people in the Third World."

The "direction of the action" became blurred and "ammunition was given to the security forces' propaganda and any number of idiots on the left trying to split resistance to the shooting of the GI."

It was clear from this statement that much though the terrorists regret the fate of the peoples in need of liberation they don't care a jot about what happens to their individual victims, whether they are GI Pimental or chauffeur Groppeler.

From now on the RAF is pitiless in following the rule that omelletes cannot be made without breaking eggs. In other words, indiscriminate killings will continue.

The RAF took a year after Wiesbaden and Frankfurt to mount their next serious attack. The security forces cannot foresee when the next attack will be. The groups endangered by the RAF's aims in its "anti-imperialist struggle" have come to light by arrests and the discovery of "safe" houses. In some instances lists of names have been found.

But no-one can make any rhyme or reason out of their planning.

Potential victims are in the broadest sense representatives of the "military-industrial complex" and, according to the security forces, that does not exclude clowns.

But it is regarded as improbable that there will be an outbreak of attacks against politicians prior to the general election in January next year.

Just how long the nightmare of violence will last no-one knows. Today's terrorists are cunning, cowardly and cautious for their own persons.

It could also be a question of their internal organisation that they prefer remote-controlled bombs to trying, for example, kidnapping. All this makes it difficult to come to grips with them.

Expert circles regard with misgivings the latest CDU/CSU proposal to combat terrorism with the increased use of undercover agents.

It is regarded as quite impossible to infiltrate the commando group of the RAF. The agent would be in the gravest danger and probably have to commit serious crimes to prove his credentials as an accomplice.

There is not much likelihood that RAF insiders will come forward and give information to gain the millions offered in rewards either. RAF revenge is too much feared and their small circle too powerful.

Then there is a sense of belonging together in the underground that makes it difficult to think in terms of betrayal.

Thomas Meyer  
(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 12 August 1986)



(Photo: Ulrich Horst)

Man's world, one. Women in two.

(Photo: Ulrich Horst)